

Abstract

Methods and apparatus for efficiently identifying, selecting and aligning cells within a circuit design are disclosed. Preferably, a net or group of nets is first identified by the circuit designer. Then, selected cells that are connected to the selected net or group of
5 nets are identified by the placement tool. A qualification or filter may be provided for filtering which cells are selected. For example, the filter may allow only those cells that are source cells, destination cells, placed cells, unplaced cells, etc., or any combination thereof to be selected. The selected cells may be aligned in a direction of an alignment axis, if desired.

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